CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of running a cable from an interior of an aircraft to an exterior of the aircraft through an opening in a fuselage of the aircraft, the method comprising:

(a) inserting a guide member through an opening in a fuselage of an aircraft;

(b) forming a first seal between said guide member and said opening;

(c) inserting a cable through an opening in said guide member so that said cable extends through said fuselage of said aircraft;

(d) forming a second seal between said guide member and said cable;

(e) applying a vacuum to said first and second seals; and

(f) observing a level of said vacuum after a period of time.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein prior to performing step (c), step (b) further comprises applying a vacuum to said first seal and observing a level of said vacuum after a period of time.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein step (b) further comprises applying a vacuum to said first seal by placing a body of a testing tool having a cavity over said opening with said cavity communicating with said opening and with said first seal and forming a vacuum in said cavity with a vacuum source.

4. The method of claim 2, further comprising forming said vacuum in said cavity with a vacuum source that communicates with said cavity through said opening in said guide member.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein step (e) further comprises positioning a body of a testing tool having a cavity over said opening with said cavity communicating with said opening and with said first and second seals and forming a vacuum in said cavity with a vacuum source.

6. A method of running a cable from an interior of an aircraft to an exterior of the aircraft through an opening in a fuselage of the aircraft, the method comprising:

(a) inserting a cable through an opening in a fuselage of an aircraft with said cable extending from an interior of said aircraft to an exterior of said aircraft;

(b) forming a seal between said cable and said opening;

(c) applying a vacuum to said seal; and

(d) observing a level of said vacuum after a period of time.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein (c) further comprises positioning a body of a testing tool having a cavity over said opening with said cavity communicating with said opening and with said seal and forming a vacuum in said cavity with a vacuum source.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein said cable is an antenna cable.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein said cable has a diameter greater than about 0.5 inches.

10. A method of running a cable from an interior of an aircraft to an exterior of the aircraft through an opening in a fuselage of the aircraft, the method comprising:

(a) inserting a guide member through an opening in a fuselage of an aircraft;

(b) forming a first seal between said guide member and said opening;

(c) applying a vacuum to said first seal; and

(d) observing a level of said vacuum after a period of time.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein (c) includes positioning a body of a testing tool having a cavity over said opening with said cavity communicating with said opening and with said first seal and forming a vacuum in said cavity with a vacuum source.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising forming said vacuum in said cavity with a vacuum source that communicates with said cavity through an opening in said guide member.

13. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

inserting a cable through an opening in said guide member so that said cable extends through said fuselage of said aircraft;

forming a second seal between said guide member and said cable;

applying a vacuum to said second seal; and

observing a level of said vacuum after a period of time.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein applying a vacuum to said second seal includes positioning a body of a testing tool having a cavity over said opening with said cavity communicating with said opening and with said second seal and forming a vacuum in said cavity with a vacuum source.

15. The method of claim 10, wherein said cable has a diameter of about 0.5 inches or less.

16. A method of locally testing a cable seal used to seal a cable assembly that extends through a fuselage of an aircraft, the method comprising:

(a) providing an aircraft having a cable seal operable to seal a cable assembly that passes through a fuselage in said aircraft;

(b) providing a tool having a body with an interior cavity and an opening that allows access to said interior cavity;

(c) positioning said tool on said aircraft with said tool opening surrounding said cable seal and said interior cavity communicating with said cable seal;

(d) creating a vacuum in said interior cavity of said tool so that said cable seal experiences said vacuum; and

(e) observing a level of said vacuum in said interior cavity after a predetermined length time.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said cable assembly is a cable that passes through said fuselage and said cable seal seals said cable to said fuselage.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein said cable assembly includes a guide member that passes through said fuselage and a cable that passes through said fuselage via an opening in said guide member and wherein said cable seal seals said guide member to said fuselage and seals said cable to said guide member.